

National Transportation Safety Board  
Washington, DC 20594

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Brief of Accident

Adopted

MIA85FA106							
File No. 548	02/27/1985	HORSESHOE BEACH ,FL	Aircraft Reg No. N9228L	Time (Local): 22:39 EST			
Make/Model:	Grumman American/AA-5			Fatal	Serious	Minor/None	
Engine Make/Model:	Lycoming / O-320-E2G		Crew	1	0	0	
Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed		Pass	0	0	0	
Number of Engines:	1						
Operating Certificate(s):	None						
Type of Flight Operation:	Personal						
Reg. Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation						
Last Depart. Point: MOBILE, AL				Condition of Light: Night/Dark			
Destination: TAMPA, FL				Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility			
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip				Basic Weather: Visual Conditions			
				Lowest Ceiling: None			
				Visibility: 7.00 SM			
				Wind Dir/Speed: 310 / 005 kts			
				Temperature (°C): 19			
				Precip/Obscuration:			
Pilot-in-Command	Age: 36			Flight Time (Hours)			
Certificate(s)/Rating(s)				Total All Aircraft: 644			
Private; Single-engine Land				Last 90 Days: 11			
				Total Make/Model: 22			
Instrument Ratings				Total Instrument Time: 12			
None							

\*\*\* Note: NTSB investigators either traveled in support of this investigation or conducted a significant amount of investigative work without any travel, and used data obtained from various sources to prepare this aircraft accident report. \*\*\*

THE ACFT CRASHED IN THE GULF OF MEXICO WHILE THE PLT WAS ON A NIGHT X-COUNTRY FLT. THE WX AT THE DESTINATION HAD BEEN FORECAST TO BE IFR. HOWEVER, IN THE AREA OF THE ACCIDENT, WITNESSES STATED THE WX WAS GOOD WITH NO FOG & IT WAS A DARK NIGHT. WHEN THE ACFT DID NOT ARRIVE, A SEARCH WAS INITIATED. THE WRECKAGE WAS FOUND THE NEXT DAY AT 1106 EST WHERE THE ACFT CRASHED ABOUT 3 MI SOUTH OF HORSESHOE BEACH. NO PREIMPACT PART FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION WAS FOUND. RADAR DATA SHOWED THAT THE ACFT HAD ENTERED A SPIRAL BEFORE CONTACT WAS LOST IN THE VICINITY OF THE CRASH SITE. A CHECK OF THE PLT'S BLOOD SHOWED A SLIGHT AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL; HOWEVER, SOME OR ALL OF THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO PUTREFACTION.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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HORSESHOE BEACH ,FL

Aircraft Reg No. N9228L

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Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (F) LIGHT CONDITION - DARK NIGHT
2. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) VISUAL/AURAL PERCEPTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) SPATIAL DISORIENTATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) LACK OF TOTAL INSTRUMENT TIME - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (F) SPIRAL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
7. (C) DESCENT - NOT CORRECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor